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(57) Abstract

This invention relates to compositions and methods comprising "lymphotoxin-\$\beta\$ receptor blocking agents", which block lymphotoxin-\$\beta\$ receptor signalling. Lymphotoxin-\$\beta\$ receptor blocking agents are useful for treating lymphotoxin-mediated immunological diseases, and more particularly, for inhibiting Th1 cell-mediated immune responses. This invention relates to soluble forms of the lymphotoxin-\$\beta\$ receptor entracellular domain that act as lymphotoxin-\$\beta\$ receptor blocking agents. This invention also relates to the use of anabodies directed against either the lymphotoxin-\$\beta\$ receptor or its ligand, surface lymphotoxin, that are as lymphotoxin-\$\beta\$ receptor blocking agents. A novel screening method for selecting soluble receptors, antibodies and other agents that block LT-\$\beta\$ receptor signalling is provided.